REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, in the light of the above corrective amendments to claims 1, 2, 12 and 22. In order to better define the invention, claim 1 has been slightly amended and now recites that the portable object includes first and second "control" means for controlling the electronic functions, the first "control" means including touch-sensitive keys, and the second "control" means including a strain gauge.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-5 and 12-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Besson '117, and also the rejection of dependent claims 6-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Besson '117 in view of Brown '256.

Besson discloses (see Abstract) an electronic watch with touch-sensitive keys which control functions of the watch, and which are gated to reduce the power consumption of the watch. When the touch-sensitive key switches are touched by the user, a change in the key switch signals occurs which activates the time-setting function.

Besson discloses only conventional touch-sensitive keys, and does **not** disclose a strain gauge. Consequently, claim 1 clearly is novel in view of Besson.

Claim 1 also would not have been obvious from Besson for the reasons presented below.

Applicant's invention relates to a portable object including first and second control means. The first control means includes a plurality of touch-sensitive keys for selecting an electronic function. The second control means includes a strain gauge allowing confirmation or activation of the selected electronic function. The selection of the desired electronic function is

effected by only touching the appropriate touch-sensitive key. The confirmation or activation of the selected electronic function is effected by applying pressure to the portable object via the effect of which pressure the strain gauge generates a control signal. Consequently, the user must not only **touch** a touch-sensitive key to select the desired function, but must **also** exert **pressure** on the portable object to start this selected function.

Such an arrangement has numerous advantages which are fully described in Applicant's specification. For instance, the risk of the user inadvertently activating a function by brushing against a key is avoided. Indeed, the operation corresponding to the key on which the user has placed his finger will not be selected until said user has also exerted pressure on the portable object to confirm his selection (see page 3, lines 16-20). Also, contrary to Besson (see column 2, lines 44, 45), it is not necessary in Applicant's invention to power the keys permanently, which allows the lifetime of the batteries energizing the portable object to be substantially increased. Indeed, when the user presses down on the portable object with his finger, the strain gauge generates an electric signal which will be applied to a control circuit. In turn, this control circuit will switch on the touch-sensitive keys (see page 3, lines 5-15).

Consequently, Applicant's claimed **combination** of the touch-sensitive keys and the strain gauge provides new and useful advantages which are neither described nor even suggested by Besson alone or in combination with Brown. Clearly, there is **no suggestion to combine** the teachings of Besson and Brown. Furthermore, even if,for some unknown reason, a person were to combine Brown's strain gauge with Besson's electronic watch, there would **not** be produced

the subject matter of claim 1 (and its dependent claims 2-26) or subject matter which would have rendered these claims obvious.

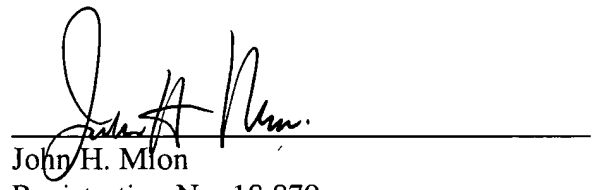
In view of the above, Applicant submits that claim 1 is both novel and non-obvious over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and thus is patentable. The remaining claims 2-26, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, are patentable at least for the same reasons as claim 1 is patentable. **Contrary** to what the Examiner asserts on page 2 of the Office Action, the limitation of claim 2 does **not** contradict parent claim 1. Claim 2 simply means that the user can touch a particular touch-sensitive key to select a desired function, and **also** exert a pressure with his finger at the same location where the particular key is located.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the two rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and to allow claims 1-26 (new claim 26 has been added in order positively to include the emitting means as an element of the claimed combination).

Thus, in summary, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all rejections and to find the application to be in condition for allowance with all of

claims 1-26; however, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to **call the undersigned attorney**.

Respectfully submitted,



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